

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

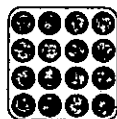
Tuesday, February 20, 1979

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DONALD F. WILLE,
Vice Chairman,
Presiding.

Wildlife and Fisheries
Building, Room 102
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, inc.
Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . Pursuant to notice, the regular monthly meeting of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 1979, in Room 102, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Donald F. Wille, Vice-Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

DONALD F. WILLE, Vice Chairman

DOYLE G. BERRY, Member

J. C. FARRELLY, Member

J. C. GILBERT, Member

HARVEY C. LUTTRELL, Member

CHARLES RIGGS, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Secretary

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of January 23, 1979. (4)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request for renewal of permit to remove sand, (4)
gravel or fill materials from the beds
and water bottoms of the Mississippi



River at Mile 50 AHP, vicinity of Woodland, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, by Atlas Construction Company.

3. Request for renewal of permit to remove sand, gravel or fill materials from the beds or water bottoms of the Mississippi River at Mile 18 AHP, vicinity of Fort Jackson, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, by Atlas Construction Company. (5)
4. Request for permit to dredge for clam shells in North Little Lake and Lake Salvador by Mr. Robert E. Cox. (7)

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Election of officers. (18)
6. Set date for March meeting. (17)

ITEMS NOT ON PRINTED AGENDA

- Introduction of new Commission Member J. C. Farrelly. (16)
- Authorization to attend National Turkey Meeting. (19)
- Discussion of Commission position statement re Atchafalaya Basin. (20)
- Adjournment. (23)



THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission February meeting. This is Tuesday, February 20.

The first thing on the agenda is that we need to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. RIGGS: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Riggs. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

O. K., Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: We have three items today and they shouldn't be too much of a problem.

The first item is a request by Atlas Construction Company to renew a permit for the dredging of fill material in the Mississippi River. This permit has been in effect and it has not been a problem. We would recommend that it be renewed for a period of one year at ten cents a yard.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.



MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Berry. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to ATLAS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 50 AHP, vicinity of Woodland, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from February 20, 1979 to February 20, 1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item is a



request also by the Atlas Construction Company for renewal of a permit at another point in the Mississippi River 18 miles Above the Head of the Passes at Fort Jackson. This has been in effect. We have had no trouble with it and I would recommend that it be renewed for one year at ten cents a yard.

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to ATLAS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
to remove fill material from the beds



or water bottoms of the Mississippi River at Mile 18 AHP, vicinity of Fort Jackson, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from February 20, 1979 to February 20, 1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Gentlemen, the third item deals with a request by Mr. Robert E. Cox to dredge for clam shells in Lake Salvador. The agenda says Little Lake and Lake Salvador, but the last time we discussed this Mr. Cox indicated he was not interested in Little Lake, he would like to dredge in Salvador.

We were instructed by the Commission to develop certain information about the lake since the last meeting and we have done this. We find that the lake is used to a rather large extent by freshwater catfishermen. They produce catfish in the amount of roughly \$380,000 value a year. This was in 1974. It is probably valued at more than that now, with inflation. There is also a rather extensive use of the lake by some crab fishermen.



During periods of low river stages and low rainfall and during drought there is enough salt entering the area to give a small catch of shrimp, but this is not a reliable production.

The archeological and other information about the lake was developed by the Refuge Division who have some interest in and around there because they have the Salvador Game Management Area, and we have had a letter from one other individual, a private individual, concerning some of the archeological sites which are predominantly shell mounds and middens along the lake shore.

After examining all of this material, it would appear that it is feasible to allow Mr. Cox to dredge in the lake provided the permit restricts him to an area one-half mile from shore around most of the lake and from certain other areas in the southwest portion of the lake, as outlined on this map (indicating). The shaded area would not be recommended to be placed in the permit.

This leaves an area of about 31,000 acres in the center of the lake which should produce some shell without any significant biological



damages or ecological problems. There is a possibility that this operation may run into some problems with the fishing industry there. However, much of this is done along the shoreline and should not be too much of a thing.

This permit, of course, would have to be accompanied by an appropriate Corps of Engineers permit before Mr. Cox could dredge, and that permit would also be subject to the approval by not only this agency but a number of other agencies.

Under these conditions I would recommend that the Commission grant Mr. Cox a permit for one year. It is a non-exclusive permit. He would have to renew it after one year, at which time the Commission could reconsider and determine whether or not there had been any significant problems in the area. Also, that the royalty be equivalent to and the same as other shell companies which are now all in line at approximately 20 cents per yard, but this would have to be determined and calculated and placed in the permit at the appropriate price.

MR. FARRELLY: Doc, could I ask you a question? I just heard about this last night and



in speaking with someone from Lafitte, they said about 80 to 90 percent of the softshell crabs produced in Lafitte are produced out of Lake Salvador and they said that at this time they are really getting ready to what they call string bushline Lake Salvador for softshell crabs. We discussed about half a mile from the coastline and he said it is his knowledge that they do the whole lake. Now what effect would this have on these particular people historically doing this?

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, I am sure all of the fishing is over the whole lake, not just along the shoreline. They don't develop softshell crabs in the lake, do they? They just catch those crabs and move them in the traps. Do they hold them in the lake in boxes? They catch them on the brush in the lake and sell them directly.

MR. ENSMINGER: They put them in boxes after they collect them. They collect busters in the lake.

MR. FARRELLY: He said this was a period of them when they are getting ready to go in, would be doing that right now. Not now, but within



the next month.

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, this could develop into some kind of --

MR. BERRY: Well, Doc, you look at 31,000 acres and I don't believe that that shell dredge is going to be moving that fast or moving that much material to adversely affect a whole lot of area in that lake. I don't believe you are talking about enough area in there. As I said yesterday, it is sort of like putting four people in the Monteleone Hotel and saying don't get in one another's way.

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, let me say this. Mr. Cox will have to tell you how he dredges. Are you going to be moving this dredge, Mr. Cox?

MR. COX: Only moves about three miles an hour.

DR. ST. AMANT: Normally these dredges operate in an area of about half a mile to a mile and they tend to circle or stay in that area. They will eventually move to other areas as that area is depleted, but it is a relatively slow operation. The problem we have had with the crab



fishermen is that sometimes the crabs bite a little better around where you are stirring this mud up than away from it, so there is a tendency to place some of these crab traps in the near vicinity of a dredge and this allows an opportunity occasionally for them to be troublesome.

I don't think there is a problem here. Let's put it this way, before this operation gets started, I suppose it will be several months because after this permit is processed, there will have to be a Corps permit processed. It will be well up into the spring or summer before it could be operated. Then if there is any significant problem, the crab fishermen would have an opportunity at the next year when this thing is renewed to make their position clear, and if it is a definite problem, then the Commission would have the option to decide how they wanted to do it.

MR. BERRY: Isn't that lake in fact only seven, eight, ten feet at the most, all over it?

DR. ST. AMANT: I am sure it is shallow, yes.

MR. BERRY: Well, wouldn't it help to



dredge it out?

DR. ST. AMANT: I don't think this is going to reduce the depth or change the depth because all Mr. Cox is doing is running the bottom through and filtering out the shells and then he will put the stuff right back. I don't think there are enough shells in there to change the water depth, under any circumstances. If it did, it would be solid shells.

MR. RIGGS: Let me ask you this one question. Since clamshells are in real short supply, will a clause be placed in that permit giving priority to parishes to purchase the shells in state highway projects at market price? I mean is that normal procedure?

DR. ST. AMANT: That is a standard clause that is in most of the exclusive permits. If the Commission directs and places that in their directive in the preparation of this permit, of course, anything you would like to put in it we can put in; any types of restrictions, controls or clauses can be written into the permit and it would then become a valid contract and Mr. Cox or whoever owned such



a permit would have to comply.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that Mr. Cox be granted this dredging permit for clam shells in Lake Salvador, not to dredge within half a mile of the shoreline at any time.

MR. FARRELLY: One year?

DR. ST. AMANT: One year. All of these are one year.

MR. RIGGS: Mr. Berry, would you have any reservations about giving priority to the State Highway Department, parishes purchasing this shell?

MR. BERRY: I thought that was the standard form in the contract that the State had first call on those shells at the market price. That is standard form, isn't it, Doc?

DR. ST. AMANT: That is standard form in the exclusive leases. I don't think that is in the annual permits for fill material, and this will be a permitting thing. It would be very simple to put that clause in there.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Cox, have you got any objection to that?



MR. COX: No, sir.

MR. BERRY: I would like that in the motion that along with this permit the State of Louisiana or any political subdivision thereof has first call on those shells at the market price.

MR. RIGGS: Second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, and, Mr. Cox, you have been aware of all the problems that might come up on this thing because of the artifacts and so forth?

MR. COX: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., and you are willing to accept the permit for one year?

MR. COX: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., it has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Riggs. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

(No response)

There being no one opposed, the motion is carried and you get your permit.

DR. ST. AMANT: Thank you, gentlemen.



MR. BERRY: Good luck, Mr. Cox.

MR. COX: Thank all of you.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to ST. TAMMANY SHELL COMPANY
to remove shell from Lake Salvador in
St. Charles, Jefferson and Lafourche
Parishes with the exception that this
contract does not include dredging
within one-half mile of all shorelines,
except in the southwest end of the lake
where the area is restricted from
dredging, for a period of one year
from February 20, 1979 to February 20,
1980, at a royalty rate of 20 cents
per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think before we go on
to other business in our agenda here that we
should introduce our newest Commission member,



who hails from Metairie, Louisiana. By the way, this is the first time in the history of this Commission that we have had somebody on it from the New Orleans area. I wouldn't say that the man would represent any kind of special interest group but he is president of the New Orleans Shrimp Company, he is the former president of the Louisiana Shrimp Association, and it will be kind of interesting to see how he votes on the next shrimp meeting that we have coming up.

I want to introduce Mr. Jim Farrelly. Jim, would you stand up and take a bow.

(Applause)

MR. FARRELLY: I might wear my Mardi Gras mask for that meeting!

(Laughter)

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, how do you introduce a man to a group that has made more meetings than you have!

THE CHAIRMAN: That's right. It's just about that way. Jim is a very familiar face around here. We have seen him several times, and I think that he will be a great asset to this



Commission because we definitely need someone to represent the shrimping industry. We have had Jean here but Jean only represents the canning end. Now we want to see what the other end does.

MR. BERRY: I think Jean would take exception to that!

THE CHAIRMAN: I would also like to recognize Mr. Waldo Orso. I understand he is the godfather of the shrimping industry!

MR. ORSO: We are quite pleased with Mr. Farrelly's appointment. I think he is going to be a good asset to the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I definitely agree with you. We appreciate that and we definitely agree with you, and I think that the Governor should be commended for taking somebody from a big populated area like this because he will probably get a lot more votes.

MR. BERRY: We promise you, if he doesn't do what is right, we will only hold meetings when he is sick!

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, gentlemen, I think we should set the March meeting for the 26th



and 27th. I am kind of switching here a little bit on the agenda.

The next thing up will be election of officers, and I am looking for a nomination now for Chairman.

MR. RIGGS: I nominate Doyle Berry.

MR. LUTTRELL: I second the nomination.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Berry has been nominated for Chairman by Mr. Riggs and been seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Do I have a motion to either nominate someone else or close the nominations?

MR. GILBERT: I move that nominations close.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gilbert moved that nominations be closed so Mr. Berry is now Chairman. Anything else?

MR. BERRY: Thank you, gentlemen. I appreciate your confidence. I hope I can serve you well for the next year and maybe be a little more effective than I have been the last 12 months. Now, get out of my chair, Mr. Wille!

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, sir. You don't take over until after this meeting. Now we



need a nomination for vice chairman.

MR. RIGGS: I nominate Don Wille.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second the motion.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: That isn't necessary. You are the vice chairman.

MR. WILLE: I was the vice chairman but I didn't know I was the chairman yesterday, too!

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Acting chairman.

MR. LUTTRELL: You are still the vice chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., fine. That is all we need then. Is there any other business to be brought before the Commission at this time?

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes, I have a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., sir.

MR. LUTTRELL: Since the turkey population of Louisiana has increased to a large extent and has become one of the greater of the wildlife interests, I, Mr. Chairman, would like to move that you appoint any of the Commission members who desire to attend the National Turkey Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, coming up in March. Do I get a second to my motion?



MR. RIGGS: I will second it.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Mr. Clay, would you make that subject to the availability of funds, because our travel money is getting real low. We will have to check it real close.

MR. LUTTRELL: Well, yes, of course.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Riggs, that it be authorized by this Commission subject to the availability of funds.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: And that will be right on to June 30.

THE CHAIRMAN: What Burt is trying to say is that he is running out of money.

MR. BERRY: Just charge it!

THE CHAIRMAN: We have one other thing that should be brought up at this time, and that is the recommendation in a letter by Mr. Marc Dupuy yesterday which was brought into the Commission here. I realize we are going to be pressed for time and we will not have another meeting before this recommendation can go forward to the people in question. I would like to see someone make a



motion that this letter be turned over to Mr. Angelle and his staff and the necessary draft be made for any corrections which may need to be done on this thing and it should be coordinated through Mr. Dupuy and then it will be adopted as a motion from this Commission or a resolution from this Commission to be sent to Washington as our stand on the Atchafalaya Basin.

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. RIGGS: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Riggs. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

The motion has passed. Mr. Angelle, I am going to charge you with the responsibility of making any changes and coordinating this through Mr. Dupuy, and that will be our recommendation to Washington.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Without guidelines on what input the Commission would want in it, I would just have to rely on Mr. Dupuy's coordination



and then he would speak for the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that what we need to do is, wherever we get technical in that letter, we should revert to generalities really so that there is some latitude on the part of the people that are concerned. Do you think that that can be done, Burt, comfortably?

SECRETARY ANGELLE: I think what you need to do, Mr. Wille, is to make that known, or I can, but then I think it would be proper if the present chairman or oncoming chairman would make those wishes known to Mr. Dupuy so he can modify that. I cannot pick people's minds for me to put in here what you want, and I would rather not make a mistake.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, what I would like for you to do, Mr. Secretary, is to make your recommendations in parallel with this or have some of you staff do that for us, if you would, and then take the modifications and put them down on paper and let Mr. Dupuy read them, and if he agrees, then I think everything is going to be fine. But we only have until the 28th and I don't want to



call another Commission meeting at this time.

Does that suit you?

SECRETARY ANGELLE: I have no problem with sending it on to the proper authorities as modified by Marc in the interests of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right, very fine. The main thing I want to do is give Marc credit for putting that thing together. Whether it is going to help him or hurt him, I don't know.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Good or bad.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come up before the Commission this morning?

(No response)

If there is no further business, this meeting stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:47 o'clock
a.m., Tuesday, February 20,
1978, the meeting was adjourned.)

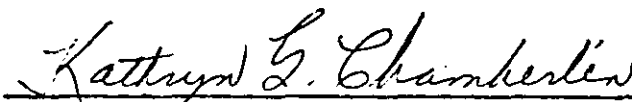
Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (24 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the tape recording and of the stenographic notes of the proceedings herein, transcribed by me, at the time and place hereinbefore noted.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 16th day of
March, 19 79.


Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

